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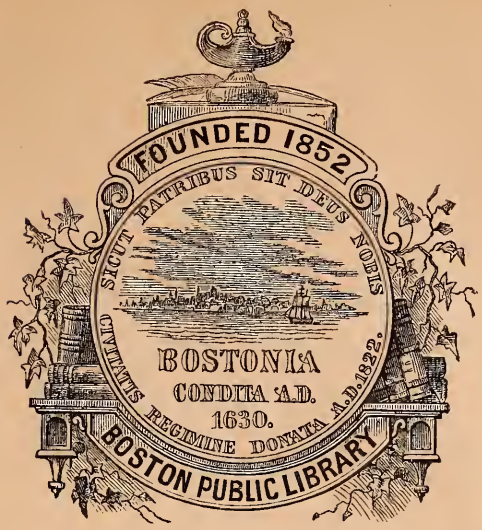

City Document.—No. 101.

CITY OF BOSTON.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

INSTRUCTION IN MILITARY DRILL

IN THE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1863.

In School Committee, December 8, 1863.

Read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Attest: BARNARD CAPEN, *Secretary.*

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CITY OF BOSTON.

In School Committee, November 3, 1863.

ORDERED: That a committee of five be appointed to consider and report upon the expediency of introducing instruction in Military Drill into the Public Schools for Boys; and, if they shall think it expedient, to report a plan therefor.

Passed; and the Chair appointed as the committee, Messrs. Hale, Lothrop, Hayward, Brainard, and Haynes.

Attest: BARNARD CAPEN, *Secretary*.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In School Committee, December 8, 1863.

THE Committee appointed under the foregoing order respectfully

REPORT:

That they are of opinion that it is expedient to introduce instruction in military gymnastics and drill into the Public Schools for Boys, both as a means of physical training, and ultimately of national defence. They think this instruction should commence with the younger classes, in gymnastics, which they consider well calculated to adapt the pupil for military movements, as well as of great utility in promoting their health and their capacity for study, and believe that the time necessary for this purpose, even if taken from the present school-hours, will be well employed, and rather increase than diminish the amount of study which may safely be required of them.

They hope that a system may hereafter be introduced, embracing all the schools in the State, and providing for the necessary supervision of this branch of education, and therefore do not feel it advisable to present, at this time, all the features of such a system as it might otherwise be desirable to adopt for this city alone. At the same time they are of opinion that steps should be taken at once for the introduction of such instruction, as an experiment at least, in some of our public

schools. They are of opinion that the instruction should be given by the teachers, and, after a time, in large measure by pupils selected for that purpose under their supervision; — that the older pupils should be formed into one or more companies, under the direction and command of their teachers, but with officers from their own number. It may be desirable, hereafter, that regiments and brigades shall be formed of companies from each, composed of those boys who excel, and whose admission to these companies will be a mark of honor for themselves and a stimulus for their associates. They would propose to try the experiment by obtaining a competent instructor in gymnastics and drill, who should instruct some or all of the masters and ushers. They would then recommend that in the Latin, English High, Eliot, and Dwight Schools, one half-hour on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week, probably from twelve to half past twelve o'clock, should be devoted to this purpose, in the open air, but if the space available is not sufficient, and when the weather is unfavorable, then in some room in the school-house, or in some suitable place to be provided in the neighborhood — and that, after a sufficient trial, the results should be reported to the Board, and such further arrangements made, if any, as they may deem expedient. Your Committee have designated these schools because the Latin and High Schools contain the oldest pupils, and are, perhaps for other reasons, best adapted for a trial, while instruction of this kind has already been attempted with gratifying results in the Dwight and Eliot Schools.

They recommend the passage of the accompanying order.

GEORGE S. HALE, *for the Committee.*

ORDERED: That , be a committee with authority to provide a suitable instructor in military gymnastics and drill for teachers in the Public Schools for Boys, and that said committee be authorized, upon consultation with the masters and teachers of the Latin, English High, Eliot, and Dwight Schools, to introduce such instruction in those schools for at least half an hour, three times a week, at such times and in such manner as they may consider expedient, and and to provide suitable rooms therefor, if necessary, and hereafter to report to this Board.

AUG 29 1930